

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

SECRET/CONTROL U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

~~SECURITY INFORMATION~~

This Document contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States, within the meaning of Title 18, Sections 793 and 794, of the U.S. Code, as amended. Its transmission or revelation of its contents to or receipt by an unauthorized person is prohibited by law. The reproduction of this form is prohibited.

25X1

COUNTRY USSR (Ukrainian SSR)

REPORT NO.

25X1

SUBJECT 1. Living Conditions in Chernovtsy
2. VOA Reception, Propaganda, Arrests

DATE DISTR. 29 March 1954

NO. OF PAGES 3

DATE OF INFO.

REQUIREMENT NO. RD

PLACE ACQUIRED

REFERENCES

Wages

1. A textile expert in Chernovtsy (N 48-18, E 25-55) earns 450 rubles a month; he makes an additional 2,000 rubles by stealing from the storehouses which he inspects. A worker in a knitware factory earns 400 rubles a month, and a salesman in a state store earns 350 rubles a month.
2. Average monthly rent, including electricity, is 100 rubles, and a family of three must have a minimum of 1,000 rubles a month to be able to live. Workers must therefore find supplementary sources of income, legal or illegal. Almost everyone is involved in some form of theft or corruption, from the kolkhoz member to the industrial worker. It is common practice, for instance, for the manager of a state depot to falsify books and records and to withdraw excess stocks when a consignment is sent out. Thefts of this type are usually difficult to detect at the time.
3. There is no specific law requiring people to work, but both husband and wife in most families are forced to seek employment under present conditions. Employment must be sought directly from the personnel sections of factories, since there is no labor exchange.
4. Twenty rubles in taxes and 80 rubles as a compulsory loan are deducted from wages of 400 rubles a month.

Housing

5. A few small houses are still privately owned, but their owners may rent only one or two rooms. Zhilishchnoye Upravleniye, the city housing directorate, allocates almost all buildings, and no room or rooms can be rented without its approval. Block wardens administer the buildings and insure that rents are paid punctually into the state bank.

SECRET/CONTROL U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI		AEC				
-------	---	------	---	------	---	-----	---	-----	--	-----	--	--	--	--

25X1

Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X"; Field Distribution By "#".

SECRET/CONTROL U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

25X1

-2-

Cost of Living

6. Rationing of clothing and food has been abolished, but essential items can be obtained only by waiting in long lines at state stores.
 - a. A loaf of black bread costs 1.72 rubles, and no one may buy more than two loaves at one time. A loaf of white bread costs 1.80 rubles, but it is available only once or twice a week.
 - b. A kilogram of sugar costs 9.20 rubles, and no one may buy more than one kilogram at one time. Distribution of sugar is infrequent.
 - c. Flour is available usually some time before October Revolution Day, the first of May, and the first of January. No one may buy more than three kilograms at one time.
 - d. A kilogram of carp costs 8.50 rubles, and distribution is infrequent.
 - e. A liter of milk costs two rubles in summer and three rubles in winter. One kolkhoz member has only one cow but must deliver a monthly quota of 120 liters of milk a month.
 - f. When available, a lemon costs 4.50 rubles and an orange costs 10 rubles.
 - g. Candy, chocolate, and wine are freely available, but only army officers can afford the price. A kilogram of chocolate costs about 400 rubles.
7. Textiles for women's clothing are available in unlimited quantities, but the quality is usually poor. Long lines of customers form immediately when a consignment of Rumanian materials appears on the market.
8. Good worsted fabrics for men's suits cost 1,500 to 1,600 rubles a meter. Persons who are able to afford such prices generally prefer to pay 2,000 to 2,200 rubles a meter on the black market for English-made fabrics, (sic).
9. There is no shortage of leather goods. A pair of women's shoes, made in Czechoslovakia, costs 400 rubles. Soviet-made shoes are cheaper.

Travel Restrictions

10. There is complete freedom of movement inside the USSR, and citizens need no permit to travel, except in the frontier areas.
11. There is generally no search or check of passengers when they enter the railroad station. Tickets are checked at the entrance to the platform and again when the train is in motion. Neither personal documents nor luggage is usually checked during an ordinary journey.

Postal Restrictions

12. Domestic letters do not require the writer's name on the outside of the envelope. Airmail and registered mail for both the USSR and abroad must bear the writer's name and address. It is customary for the name and address of the recipient to appear in the upper two-thirds of the envelope and the name and address of the writer to appear, under a line, in the lower third of the envelope.
13. A receipt is required for registered letters, but all other mail, including letters abroad, may be mailed in ordinary mailboxes.
14. A post card costs 15 kopeks, and postage for a domestic letter costs 40 kopeks.

SECRET/CONTROL U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

-3-

Education

15. All secondary education is free, and most pupils live in dormitories at no charge to their parents. All students at secondary schools receive a state grant of 280 rubles a month, and those who distinguish themselves in their studies receive bonuses.
16. The FZU schools, which admit pupils for a six-year course at the age of 12, place special emphasis on technical training.

Miscellaneous

17. Serious failures of electricity in some sections of Chernovtsy occurred in the summer of 1952. Private homes received no current, and even industrial plants had to stop work in some instances.
18. Kerosene for cooking is available in unlimited quantities on most days, but it is not available at all on other days.
19. Most people listen to the Voice of America, and there is a great deal of interest in Western affairs. Anti-American pamphlets are displayed in all bookstores, but no one takes them seriously. For the most part they describe the starvation and sufferings of the American people.
20. There have been no mass deportations since 1947 and 1949, although isolated administrative arrests have taken place from time to time. Black marketeers are the only ones deported now.
21. A good many food packages are still being received, particularly from the United States and France. They do not appear to have been opened by either postal or customs authorities.
22. Every citizen, whether he is employed or not, receives free medical care at the clinic nearest his place of residence. The identity document is required for the first visit only, at which time a card is made out for the new patient. The patient must pay for medicines, which are freely available, including penicillin and streptomycin.

SECRET/CONTROL U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY